

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

NOTES OF A MEETING ON 14.03.2018

Present: Cllrs. Mulholland (chair), Knowles & Miss. Gooch. Non-council members: Lorraine Burley (Ashford Volunteers) Liz Thorne (Tenterden Social Hub), and Julie Mccollum taking notes

Apologies for Absence: Bethan Peal (Manager- Ashford Volunteers), Jeremy Smith (Chairman- Wittersham Parish Council).

Minutes. Already forwarded by email to all members.

Matters Arising. None.

Transport Survey Update. Liz Thorne reported that in general the results of the survey so far seem to highlight feelings of social isolation and loneliness. Main transport needs seem to focus on trips to and from the railway station, shops and GP surgery. People living in rural areas and in many places (from Headcorn to Cranbrook) seem to have completed the survey. A need for a service on Sundays and early morning/evenings has also been highlighted. Collation of all the returned questionnaires is now needed. Cllr. Mrs. Gooch and Mulholland completed the Street Survey. Response from the survey has been good.

- i) Online Survey -30
- ii) Street Survey – 37
- iii) Parishes -none so far
- iv) Others - 22

Action:

Liz Thorne to collect other surveys completed by parishes and forward to Lorraine Burley.

Liz to forward login details for the 'Survey Monkey' to Lorraine Burley.

Lorraine Burley to arrange collation of the survey and feedback results to Liz for completion of the KCC application form.

Tenterden Social Hub (TSH)

Ashford Volunteers Update. Lorraine Burley was welcomed as a new member of the sub-committee. Lorraine is the Volunteer Services Coordinator at Ashford Volunteers. Her role includes coordination of volunteer drivers and she had already forwarded useful information about this; all members received copies via email.

Tenterden Social Hub. Liz confirmed that the current TSH drivers are all paid. Former use of volunteers drivers proved impractical: most volunteers were themselves elderly this caused difficulties particularly with insurance.

Liz highlighted ongoing issues with aging minibuses regularly being out of action. She mentioned that storage space and parking the minibuses needs to be considered in future plans. TSH has no more room. Cllr. Knowles suggested that this is something ABC would be able to help with.

POTENTIAL ROUTES. It was recognised that it was too soon to make any decisions, but the service would probably need to start small and expand as needed.

FUNDING. Applications for funding from KCC and TTC are due to be completed by the end of March 2018. Cllr. Knowles suggested that ABC would be very supportive of this initiative and financial support may well be available through Cllr. M. Bennet and himself.

The KCC grant is for either: a second hand 13 reg. plate Mercedes minibus, or, a bid for funding a new adapted minibus, storage and software to run the service. There is no fixed amount.

The TTC Community Chest bid will be for a brand new adapted minibus.

It was decided that a working title of "Tenterden Hopper" would be used for the applications.

Software would also need to be purchased to manage a community bus service and TSH will be seeking funding for this. Cllr. Knowles thinks that Homewood School may also be able to help with designing the software. It was recognised that a telephone service would also be required by those unable to access a computer.

Action:

Liz Thorne to complete application for KCC grant to purchase a new minibus (+ storage etc.) With help from Cllr. Gooch if needed.

Liz Thorne to complete application for a Community Chest Grant from TTC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Cllr. Mulholland shared an email from Jeremy Smith with information about the cancellation of the Jemson's bus service taking villagers to Peasmarsh supermarket. This will clearly impact on Wittersham and possibly other villages.

Ashford Volunteers and TSH are invited to promote their services at TTC Cllr. Days. Dates to be forwarded when available. Details of the services they offer will also be included in the next Town Council Newsletter.

Cllr. Knowles reported that further help and funding could be made available through ABC and has already discussed this with Brad Bradford from ABC. Brad is currently involved in the initiative to provide a community bus for Rolvenden Parish Council. If this pilot scheme is successful it could well be expanded to Tenterden. ABC may also be able to help with driver training, licensing and insurance.

Action:

K Mulholland to advise when next TTC councilor date is, when known.

J. McCollum to ensure that the council office staff know to include AV and TSH in next newsletter.

Cllr. Knowles to arrange a meeting between himself, Brad Bradford and Liz Thorne.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 4th April at 10am